

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125301 TOSEC 130115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, TU, CY

SUBJECT: US/TURKISH RELATIONS; CYPRUS TALKS

1. SUMMARY. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO ON INSTRUCTIONS MAY 20 TO DISCUSS TIMETABLE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF US/TURKISH DEFENSE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA), LANGUAGE IN THE HIRC'S FY76-77 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL TO WHICH THE GOT TAKES EXCEPTION (ANKARA 3787), AND GOT REQUEST THAT U.S. SUPPORT TURKISH CYPRIOTS' RIGHT TO BE HEARD WHEN THE UN NEXT CONSIDERS CYPRUS. HE ALSO RAISED MAY 11 HEARINGS ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON FUTURE
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FOREIGN POLICY (STATE 116617). SISCO EXPRESSED CONCERN

ABOUT IMPACT ON CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF DCA OF ISLAMIC SUMMIT'S ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSIONAL HANDLING OF THE DCA. ESENBEL SAID GOT IS BECOMING ANXIOUS ABOUT TIMING OF DCA'S TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS AND THE SCHEDULE FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE AGREEMENT. GOT FEARS CONGRESS COULD GO INTO RECESS WITHOUT HAVING PASSED DCA AND BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE DAMAGING TO US/TURKISH RELATIONS. MR. SISCO NOTED THAT DCA AND DOCUMENTS THAT WILL ACCOMPANY IT TO CONGRESS ARE NOW IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WE UNDERSTAND PACKAGE WILL GO TO

CONGRESS SHORTLY. SISCO SAID THAT IN WEEKS SINCE DCA WAS SIGNED IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO DRAFT THE ACCOMPANYING LEGISLATION AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO POLICY DELAYS IN ASSEMBLING PACKAGE; IT HAS TAKEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME TO HANDLE THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS. SISCO SAID THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO REQUEST PROMPT CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO HAVE THE AGREEMENT PASSED BEFORE CONGRESS GOES INTO AUTUMN RECESS OCTOBER 2. HE INDICATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT LINKING US/TURKISH AND US/GREEK AGREEMENTS BUT SAID HE HAS SENSED SENTIMENT ON THE HILL FOR CONSIDERING THE TWO AGREEMENTS AT THE SAME TIME. HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS ON THE US/GREEK DOCUMENT ARE CONTINUING AND WE HOPE TO CONCLUDE THEM IN NEAR FUTURE. NOTING THERE IS ALSO SOME SENTIMENT ON CAPITOL HILL FOR SHELIVING BOTH AGREEMENTS UNTIL AFTER US ELECTION, SISCO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NONETHELESS WORK TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION OCCURS BEFORE THEN.

3. LANGUAGE IN SECTION 508(A) OF HOUSE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL. ESENBEL MADE SAME POINTS ASULA PUT TO GARDNER ON THIS SUBJECT (ANKARA 3787) -- I.E., THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS GOT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE "BASE AGREEMENTS" REPLACED BY "DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS" AND REFERENCE TO US USE OF FACILITIES DELETED. MR. SISCO SAID WE UNDERSTAND GOT'S SENSITIVITIES, AND WE WILL SEE WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE WHEN

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THE SENATE/HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETS ON THE BILLS EMERGING FROM THE TWO HOUSES. HE NOTED WE HAD CONCLUDED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE TO HAVE OPENED UP THIS LANGUAGE FOR DEBATE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR BEFORE THE DCA HAS BEEN FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THOSE IN HIRC WHO HAD PLACED IN THE BILL THE LANGUAGE TO WHICH GOT TAKES EXCEPTION APPARENTLY THOUGHT THAT DOING SO WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO GET THE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION

THROUGH THE HOUSE SUBSEQUENTLY TO ENABLE US TO CARRY OUT ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE DCA.

4. CYPRUS COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL FORA. ESENBEL DREW SISCO'S ATTENTION TO ACCEPTANCE BY ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL OF THE CONCEPT OF TWO SEPARATE ZONES ON CYPRUS AND OF THE IDEA THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE SAME RIGHT AS THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY TO BE HEARD IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM CONSIDERING CYPRUS PROBLEM. ESENBEL SAID GOT IS THINKING AHEAD

TO THE TIME WHEN UNGA MIGHT ONCE AGAIN SEEK TO CONSIDER CYPRUS, AND WANTED TO GET US SUPPORT FOR HAVING DENKTASH ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF OR ANY UN COMMITTEES AT WHICH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE HEARD. HE SAID GOT HAS CONCLUDED FROM MAKARIOS' PUBLIC REMARKS THAT MAKARIOS HAS DECIDED TO STALL THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WITH AN EYE BOTH TO FUTURE ACTION IN THE UN AND ON THE US CONGRESS' CONSIDERATION OF US/TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THUS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE GOT TO PLAN AT THIS EARLY STAGE ITS OWN APPROACH TO LIKELY UN CONSIDERATION. ESENBEL EMPHASIZED GOT VIEW THAT BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR UNGA NOT TO CONSIDER CYPRUS AT ALL BUT RATHER RELEGATE THE ISSUE TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE OR AD HOC COMMITTEE. SISCO SAID WE WOULD STUDY AIDE MEMOIRE ESENBEL HAD PRESENTED ASKING FOR US SUPPORT FOR ACCORDING DENKTASH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN UN GATHERINGS, AND THAT SOME TIME BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS WE WILL MAKE UP OUR MINDS ON BEST APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. SISCO SAID THAT IN THE MEANTIME WE HOPE CYPRUS CAN BE HANDLED AS NON-CONTENTIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN SUCH UN CONTEXTS AS RENEWAL OF THE UNFICYP MANDATE, WHICH IS DUE TO COME UP SOON. HE SAID THAT WHILE US AT THE MOMENT HAS NO SPECIFIC POSITION

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ON HOW RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE SHOULD BE HANDLED, WE HOPE THIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED SMOOTHLY.

5. ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE. SISCO SAID HE WANTED TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL ESENBEL THAT USG HAS LOOKED CLOSELY AT RESOLUTIONS COMING OUT OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND IS DISTURBED. HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO REGISTER WITH THE GOT CANDIDLY OUR DISMAY AT SEEMING TURKISH ACQUIESCENCE IN SUCH RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO ISRAEL AS THOSE EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM AND CALLING FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN. SISCO SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY THESE RESOLUTIONS WILL BE WIDELY NOTED IN THE US AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT US/TURKISH DCA WILL DOUBTLESS TRY TO TURN TURKEY'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTIONS AGAINST APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT.

SPEAKING AS A FRIEND, SISCO THOUGHT GOT WOULD WANT TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT WOULD SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTIONS.

6. ESENBEL REPLIED HE WAS AWARE OF HOW ISRAEL-RELATED ASPECTS OF SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE VIEWED IN US. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT AS HOST OF THE SUMMIT, TURKEY COULD HARDLY DISRUPT PROCEEDINGS FOR WHICH THERE WAS MAJORITY SENTIMENT AND SAID THAT MORE IMPORTANTLY, TURKEY HAD ONCE AGAIN REGISTERED PRIVATELY WITH THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT THE RESERVA-

TIONS IT HAS ENTERED IN PREVIOUS YEARS -- I.E., THAT TURKEY WOULD BE BOUND BY RESULTS ONLY TO THE EXTENT THOSE RESULTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH TURKISH CONSTITUTION AND BASIC TENETS OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, TURKEY WILL NOT DO SO. AS TO ISRAELI EXPULSION FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ESENBEL NOTED THAT UNGA HAD TRIED EXPULSION LAST YEAR, AND NOTHING HAPPENED. HE SAID THAT IF AN ATTEMPT IS MADE IN THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TURKEY WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION AT THAT TIME. IN REPLY TO SISCO'S QUESTION WHETHER ISLAMIC SUMMIT HAD BOUND TURKEY TO ANY SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION ON THE EXPULSION ISSUE SHOULD IT ARISE, ESENBEL SAID NO, THAT TURKEY WOULD SIMPLY EXAMINE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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QUESTION AT THE TIME IT CAME UP. RELEVANT TO TURKEY'S EXAMINATION, SAID ESENBEL, WOULD BE THE GOT'S PERCEPTION OF WHETHER OR NOT "ISRAELI LOBBY" ON THE HILL HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN THE EFFORT TO PASS US-TURKISH DCA THROUGH CONGRESS.

7. WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. IN RAISING THE "UNFORTUNATE" HEARINGS BY WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, ESENBEL SAID HE WISHED THE DEPARTMENT COULD HAVE DONE MORE TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT HEARINGS WERE NOT HELD. SISCO NOTED WE LEARNED HEARINGS SCHEDULED ONLY THE DAY BEFORE HELD, THAT WE HAD MADE EFFORT TO HAVE THEM CANCELED OR POSTPONED BUT HAD FOUND THE CHAIRMAN UNYIELDING, AND THAT WE HAD CALLED A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO ASK THEM TO ENSURE THAT THE ARMENIAN QUESTION WAS PUT INTO HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND THAT IMPORTANCE OF US/TURKISH RELATIONS WAS EMPHASIZED. SISCO NOTED THAT CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS (D-OHIO) AND J.HERBERT BURKE (R-FLA) HAD MADE EXTREMELY STRONG STATEMENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING US/TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GOOD REPAIR. HE SAID WE HAD FOUND THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO BEYOND THAT, GIVEN CONGRESS'

AUTONOMY IN SCHEDULING SUCH HEARINGS.

ROBINSON

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